

**The Waste Report's "Worldwide Waste" Series**  
*Examining waste in U.S. foreign assistance programs*

**Part 7: Foreign Institutional Development**

This edition highlights:

- More than \$3.3 million in corporate welfare to expand the customer base for the world's biggest telecommunications companies.
- More than \$9 million to help ease the medical debt of Cambodians.
- \$177,000 for free health care in Colombian towns to give the Colombian National Police an "entry point" for interactions with the locals.
- \$2.9 million to help law students from Afghanistan, including those training in Sharia law, study law in the United States.
- A sustained effort from the federal government to boost Afghanistan's artisans, including:
  - \$4.8 million to "shape a more positive international image of Afghanistan through the rebranding of Afghan artisan products";
  - \$1.8 million spent by the Pentagon to boost Afghan jewelry makers and provide them gem training in places like Paris;
  - \$535,000 spent by USAID for a Smithsonian exhibit meant to change perceptions about Afghanistan and to promote Afghanistan artisan products.
- \$400,000 to cut business-stifling regulations in Armenia with a "regulatory guillotine" while burying America's own businesses under a mountain of regulations.
- More than \$6 million spent since 2012 to reform Armenia's tax code.
- \$550,000 for the Department of the Treasury to, in part, advise Moldova's central bank on how to manipulate interest rates.
- Hundreds of millions spent to build democratic institutions in Libya following the U.S.-led effort to topple their previous government.
- \$99,000 to improve cell phone literacy among rural farmers in Kenya, including training in how to get on Facebook with a smartphone.
- \$273 million wasted over several years on a now-abolished program to help less-capable NGOs with basic tasks like planning, fundraising, and managing future USAID grants.
- Nearly \$3 million spent to produce foreign television dramas.
- \$33,000 to support Mexico's STEM students by sponsoring their participation in a robotics league.
- \$1.9 million to rehabilitate Jamaica's juvenile criminals through counseling and job placement.
- \$346,000 spent on sustainable development in Siberia.
- \$1.5 million to gather feedback on the competence of Vietnam's provincial governments.